



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 27, 1999

S. 109

A bill to improve protection and management of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the state of Georgia

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on May 19, 1999*

CBO estimates that up-front costs to implement S. 109 over the next five or six years would be \$10 million to \$20 million, depending on the amounts appropriated. For each year during that period, and for every year thereafter, the federal government would incur additional administrative costs to manage and operate new lands and facilities. Those costs would range from about \$200,000 in fiscal year 2000 to about \$1 million by 2004, for a total of about \$3 million over the first five years. Spending for all activities would be subject to the appropriation of the necessary amounts.

S. 109 would create a system of public land corridors to link existing units of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (NRA) in Georgia. For this purpose, the bill would expand the boundaries of the NRA by about 3,200 acres. Subsection 2(d) of the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$25 million for fiscal years after 1998 for acquiring land within the enlarged NRA. This subsection also would allow the National Park Service (NPS) to accept donations of funds or real property from state or local agencies or nonprofit organizations that are involved in current efforts to protect land around the NRA. The NPS would be authorized to execute cooperative agreements with such entities in order to coordinate land acquisition, development, and other activities. Finally, S. 109 would require the NPS to complete a revised general management plan for the area within four years of receiving funding for that purpose.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that the NPS would spend about \$1 million to develop a new management plan for the NRA and establish guidelines and standards for coordinating activities at federal and nonfederal properties. Until the management plan (which would identify future development needs of the expanded NRA) has been completed, the extent of other development activities is uncertain. CBO expects that they would include the construction of one or more small administrative and

maintenance structures as well as new recreational facilities such as trails, parking lots, and restrooms—at an estimated cost of about \$9 million.

In addition, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$25 million after fiscal year 1998 for land acquisition. A total of \$25 million has already been appropriated for that purpose, \$10 million for 1998 and \$15 million for 1999. Thus the bill would authorize another \$10 million for land acquisition. If that additional sum is appropriated and spent, it would add another \$10 million to the costs of the bill—but current plans only call for federal expenditures of \$25 million for land acquisition.

S. 109 could affect governmental receipts from contributions by allowing the NPS to accept donated funds. CBO estimates that any amounts collected would be offset by additional spending for land acquisition. Because the bill could affect direct spending and receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. However, we expect that in most cases other government agencies and nonprofit organizations participating in this project would purchase land directly from property owners and then either donate it to the NPS or manage it themselves. As a result, we expect that any additional receipts and spending would not be significant.

S. 109 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. State and local governments might incur some costs as a result of the bill's enactment, but these costs would be voluntary.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.